



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Fourth Quarter, 2000

Whole No. 137

President's Report

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There is an interesting pullout which irregularly accompanies *Stamp Collector* magazine. It is called *Guide to Collecting Stamps on the Web* and, after one ignores the usual advertisements, it consists of a compendium and directory of philately-related Web sites. The main categories are "Auctions" and "Dealers" with a nod to "Postal Administration".

I resolved to electronically inspect all the "Auctions" listings from that source and other philatelic publications on a computer with two objectives in mind: to grade each site by its ease of use and also by its graphics, i.e. the clarity of the scanned photographic image of the Canal Zone stamps and covers entered onto a given site. This was a somewhat sterile exercise as I am in the 'drooler' stage, having no E-mail address or computer of my own and thus using the computers at the public library. This means little if any internet bidding can be done by me.

The best graphics were at www.stamps.org, which is the APS site. This is not surprising since the site programming as well as new data entry are done by philatelists or at least those who understand the needs of philatelists. Several of the major auction houses do possess sites whose graphics come very close to the APS standard and whose sites are much easier to use than the APS effort.

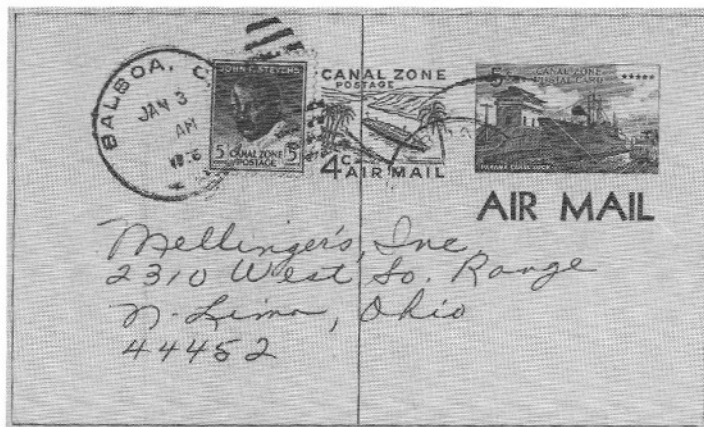
There was spill-over from the "Auctions" listing into retail, with some sites having Net Price offerings or a large purely retail lot or suppliers list. Photo scans of a stamp or cover were normally available for the more expensive items whether retail or in an auction. Many auction firms presented an enlarged color image of lots whereas their printed catalog contained only a life size black and white photograph.

The eBay site won the ease of use honors in the battle with amazon.com. Nearly all the major auction houses rated an "A" in the ease of use department. The several Canadian auction entrants' sites were well constructed although patience will have to be one of your virtues when seeking Canal Zone material from Canada or other foreign countries.

(Continued on page 39)

Last Airpost Postal Card rate Usage from the Canal Zone

by James Majka, editor UPSS Web Site (www.upss.org)



Back in 1998, it seemed long overdue when Scott catalog saw fit to significantly revise the used values for Canal Zone airmail postal cards. These cards are truly scarce when used within the proper rate period, arguable more so than many of the high priced earlier regular cards. With this in mind, one can imagine the difficulty of locating a modern airmail rate specimen for which a card was never issued. The card above illustrates a proper usage for the final, very brief, CZ domestic airmail card rate.

The 14-cent rate was the airmail postcard rate from 12/31/75 to 1/10/76 only. Special U.S. airmail rates had been effectively abolished previously. But it was not until the latter date that there was an official determination that the "fastest available service" policy for U.S. mail, also extended to Canal Zone mail to the U.S. This determination effectively ended special airmail rates for the CZ, replacing them with standard first class rate.

Commercial airmail letter mail from the zone to the U.S. is known from these eleven days. They were rated at 17 cents for the first ounce. For subsequent ounces the rate would

be 15 per ounce, but no examples of multiple-ounce covers for this brief period have yet been reported. No underpayments, with or without postage dues, have been reported yet. An 11-cent airmail card was never issued for the Canal Zone. The card illustrated here was the last Canal Zone airmail card issued. This copy was commercially sent to request a free gardening catalog.

This 14-cent airmail postal card rate has been known about in theory, but until this example, has been never seen or reported. As to the 17-cent letter rate, while there are undoubtedly more yet to be found, only about a half dozen have been reported through the CZSG.

This airmail usage of CZ postal card is truly a modern postal history gem.

CZSG Meeting Notice

WESTPEX April 27-29, 2001
meeting: Sat. April 28, 1pm
Cathedral Hill Quality Inn
San Francisco, CA

In This Issue:

Secretary's Report	34
Auctions	35
Subs in CZ waters	36
Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps	40
Scott 2001 Specialized Catalog	41
CZ Postal Stationery Knives	42

A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42

Web Page:

<http://home.att.net/~a.bentz/Czsg.htm>

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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
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One column, five inches	20.00
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Two columns, five inches	35.00
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No larger advertisements are accepted.

Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Appeal To All Zonians

...and everyone else too

Please write to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee and tell them (13 members) you want to see GEORGE W. GOETHALS, the builder of the Panama Canal, on a new U.S. stamp in the Postal Service's GREAT AMERICAN series. This is the committee who tells the Postmaster General what themes to commemorate on stamps. Let's not forget who built that Panama Canal:

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee

475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Rm. 4474E

Washington DC 20260-2437

***Do you have unusual
Canal Zone?
Write the Editor!***

[illegible]

Instructions to Publishers

- [illegible]

CZSG 2000 Mail Sale by Jim Crumpacker

The latest CZSG Mail sale, our 29th consecutive annual such effort, closed on Sept. 17 with 867 lots having been offered.

Fewer items of high catalog value were consigned than in years past with natural result being a reduced total dollar realization.

As always, not many of the damaged items drew a bid but some sound material such as lots 369 and 501 also failed to claim a bidder. Still, only 74 lots were 'no bid', a much lower percentage than in 1999. Are those eBay entries filling gaps in collections which would otherwise be provided by the CZSG Mail Sale or are the Internet auction sites spewing forth fresh goods which finds its way into our Autumn event?

In the category groupings, precancels sold outstandingly with over 80% of that segment bid to results over catalog or estimate. Most of the Scott-listed errors did nicely with strength noted also in Air plate blocks and Air Officials. Anything unusual in the covers section led to admirable payments to consignors.

No buyer's commission exists at the CZSG Sale so the first price shown below constitutes the winner's total cost for a given lot. The second value, in parenthesis, is the catalog value from the 2000 Scott's Specialized.

- 1, unused, no gum, F+ \$290 (\$550)
- 2, TG, H, barely F \$160 (\$225)
- 7, OG, H, VF \$120 (\$175)
- 9 var., ON of ZONE dropped, OG, H, F \$150 (\$275)
- 11b, PANAMA overprint inverted, bar at bottom, OG, H, F \$210 (\$350)
- 12, F, on the back of sl. stained cover 1905 to Jamaica \$140 (\$100)
- 13b, ZONE antique, OG, NH, VF in pair with normal \$180 (\$198)
- 13 var., CANAL from St. I, Pos. 35, OG, H, F-VF in pair with normal \$72 (\$45)
- 15, OG, HR, tiny red spot on gum, F \$1050 (\$2750)
- 18a, ZONE antique, used, VF \$140 (\$180)
- 23c, double overprint, OG, probably NH, VF \$440 (\$500)
- 24c, double overprint, OG, NH, almost VF \$380 (\$450)
- 38, F+ pair, one each 8.5 & 9.25mm spacing, on local toned cover 1915 \$70 (\$n/a)
- 46, OG, NH, F first pr. \$85 (\$160)
- 48, OG, NH, F first pr. margin copy \$220 (\$550)
- 56a, double overprint, OG, H, F \$320 (\$575)
- 58, OG, HR, F-VF \$190 (\$275)
- 63a, overprint reading down, OG, NH, F \$50 (\$100)
- 71, VF on VF cover, FDC ANCON 7/1/24 \$64 (not listed)
- 85 var., ZONE wrong font, used, F+, \$260 (\$n/c)
- 93 var., CANAL wrong font, used, sm. thins o/w F-VF \$125 (\$n/a)
- 123, used with PSN perfin, F \$48 (\$n/a)
- C2, OG, H, F+ \$62 (\$85)
- CO8, CTO, OG, H, F \$120 (\$160)
- CO9, CTO, no gum, almost VF \$210 (\$275)
- CO12, CTO, OG, H, F-VF \$135 (\$180)

- 85, pl. bl. 6 #16042-UL w/CANAL wrong font, OG, NH, F-VF \$360 (\$n/a)
- C18, top pl. bl. 6, OH, NH, F-VF \$230 (\$225)
- C20, bott. pl. bl. 6, OG, NH, VF \$440 (\$525)
- J8, F+ on VF US 2¢ envelope, Okla. to BAL. HTS. 1916 \$210 (\$165)
- J17b, E of POSTAGE omitted, OG, NH, F \$170 (\$450)
- J20b, rose red, used, F w/margin & part arrow \$105 (\$150)
- O1, CO1 both F-VF on cover (creases o/w VF) to U.S. 1949 \$220 (\$n/a)
- O8, CTO, OG, H, F+ \$400 (\$625)
- 52-54 Specimen set, OG, NH, F-VF \$175 (\$n/a)
- CZSG 69.A-69.G var., unissued "ARMS" Specimen set, OG, NH, F-VF \$525 (\$n/a)
- U1 (UPSS 1) VF mint entire \$120 (\$95)
- U7 (UPSS 7a) VF mint entire \$52 (UPSS \$85)
- UX1d (UPSS S2) used 1908 to Tabernilla, VF \$58 (\$225)
- UX5 (UPSS S12) used 1922, VF \$440 (\$800)

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The Summer quarter, July 1 - Sept. 30, 2000 was reasonably active for the season so far as Canal Zone stamp offerings were concerned. While there was no single auction house with a 100+ lot group of CZ philately, a number of firms had a sale of respectable depth and variety.

Shown below are some results from the period specified. The first price mentioned is 'hammer plus commission', the catalog value from the 2000 Scott's Specialized follows in parenthesis.

- 2, dried OG, H, F-VF \$184 (\$225) Regency
- 3, part OG, H, VF \$230 (\$375) Superior
- 3b, CANAL ZONE double, used, F, \$19,550 (\$12,500) Ivy & Mader
- 4, blk. of 4, OG, H, VF \$83 (\$150) Harbour
- 4-8, VG-VF all on one cover, VF, ANCON 12/11/04 \$173 (\$n/a) Superior
- 5, OG, H, XF-SUP \$110 (\$30) Harbour
- 8, sl. dist. OG, H, VF+ \$105 (\$150) Harbour
- 13b, ZONE antique, OG, HR, F in bl. 4 w/3 normals \$88 (\$243) Harbour
- 13 var., PANAMA reading down at right, OG, HR, F in bl. 4 w/3 normals \$138 (\$168) Harbour
- 15, OG, H, F-VF \$2070 (\$2750) Regency
- 15 var., Type B "8" and two PANAMA's close together, CZSG 15.4 and 15.7, part OG, H, F \$1323 (\$2750) Superior
- 19b, ZONE antique, TG, H, barely F in pair w/normal \$94 (\$264) Harbour
- 20b, ZONE antique, OG, H, barely F in pair w/normal \$176 (\$245) Harbour
- 31c, bklt. pane of 6, handmade, OG, HR, knife cut 1 row of pers. o/w F \$286 (\$575) Harbour
- 32c, bklt. pane of 6, handmade, OG, H, imprint at T, knife cut 2 rows of perfs o/w F \$286 (\$750) Harbour
- 36a, "10 cts." inverted, OG, H, F \$187 (\$250) Harbour
- 39c, bklt. pane of 6, OG, H, F-XF \$440 (\$500) Harbour

- 39e, inverted center and overprint reading down, OG, H, F, sm, paper bend \$431 (\$700) Regency
- 46, OG, H, VF \$121 (\$160) Regency
- 46b, double overprint, TG, H, F \$77 (\$225) Schiff
- 46 var., overprint split vertically, CZSG 46.B.3, TG, H, VF \$44 (\$225) Schiff
- 52a, overprint reading down, OG, H, VF \$83 (\$175) Harbour
- 54, OG, H, VF \$127 (\$200) Regency
- 59, dist. OG, H, XF \$52 (\$160) Superior
- 71e, bklt. pane of 6, OG, NH, VF-XF pos. H \$138 (\$100) Harbour
- 76, pl. bl. of 6, #15352-T, OG, H, F \$322 (\$550) Ivy & Mader
- 77, pl. bl. of 6, #14512-T, OG, H, VF \$264 (\$425) Harbour
- 91, pl. bl. of 6, #18022-B, OG, H, F-VF \$132 (\$170) Harbour
- 91c, ZONE CANAL, OG, NH, F margin copy \$99 (\$175) Harbour
- 115c, cplt. bklt. of 2 handmade panes, OG, NH, VF \$550 (\$450) Cherrystone
- J17a, POSTAGE DUE double, OG, H, F-VF, nat. SE \$156 (\$450) Schiff
- J17a, POSTAGE DUE double, TG, H, VG margin copy \$72 (\$450) Harbour
- UX4 (UPSS S11) mint entire, VF \$115 (\$160) Regency

Here are the names and addresses of the various auction houses mentioned in connection with the above lots.

Cherrystone Auctions, Inc.
119 W. 57th St.
New York, NY 10019

Harbour Auctions (Div. of M. Bennett)
601 Washington Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21204

Ivy & Mader Philatelic Auctions, Inc.
775 Passaic Ave.
West Caldwell, NY 07006

Regency Stamps, Ltd.
Le Chateau Village #106
10411 Clayton Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63131-2911

Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc.
195 Main St.
Ridgefield Park, NY 07660-1696

Superior Galleries
9478 West Olympic Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90212-4246

Other Publications: Unreported CZ 1946 Crash Cover

The March 2000 *Airpost Journal*, pages 109-117 reprints an article first published in *CZP* 133:33, 36-37. A chart is added which includes Taboga Island and the neighboring airfields. The authors, David J. Leeds and Louis E. Guglielmino have switched precedence.

Submarines in Canal Zone Waters

By David J. Leeds

The Philatelic Society of Los Angeles at their 2nd Tuesday October meeting was assigned "SUBMARINES" as the "Show and Tell" subject. The objective was to associate submarines and philately. Among the items mentioned were the Spanish Civil War fiasco—nice stamps (labels?) but only one cruise, and World War II German semi-postals. The subject was triggered by an article in *Global Stamp News*, September 2000, pp. 6-9, by Dennis Carman, "The H. L. Hunley". The *Hunley* was a Confederate built submarine that placed and detonated a torpedo under the Union ship USS *Housatonic* that sunk it. The sub survived but foundered about a mile away without loss of its crew.

The surprise of the evening was the presentation of a half dozen Panama Canal related items:

1. The earliest were covers from the 1919 5th Victory Loan Committee (Fig. 1). These covers were carried on the USS C-3 from Cristobal on the Atlantic to Balboa on the Pacific. They contained receipts to Panama Canal employees who had purchased war bonds. A sample unused cover was shown, a normal addressed cover, and the mail bag tag with the proper cachet. See CZP 49:27, 51:12, 71:13 and 73:29 for additional discussion.

2. A large number, 20 or so, covers mailed and postmarked on U.S. Submarines were shown. Since subs carried both a numerical designation as well as a name, usually that of a fish, these covers are easy to spot in any accumulation of naval covers. Most are easily identified by either the obvious name (Fig. 2) or the numeric, C-3, S-4, and so on (Fig. 3). Robert Karrer's opus, CZSG Handbook No. 7, *U.S. Navy Slogan Cancels in the Canal Zone and Panama Area, 1908-41*, 1990, listing these is currently under revision.

While slogan cancels usually identify the location of the sub, many cancels are blind, that is they do not have an identifying location slogan. Even without the slogan, such covers can frequently be related to the Canal by franking with Canal Zone stamps, or by the corner card/return address. It may be noted that most of the covers are franked with United States stamps rather than Canal Zone stamps. Many of the subs were "in transit" with mail clerks stocked with U.S. stamps as a branch of the New York post office, and most have New York, NY return addresses. U.S. stamps are the norm. An inspection of several hundred CZ naval covers failed to turn up a single CZ franked sub cover though there were several with dual franking or of obvious philatelic origin.

3. Several "organizational" markings exist: Divisions, Squadrons, and Mother Ships. The examples shown are Submarine Division 11 (Fig.4), Submarine Squadron Three (Fig. 5),



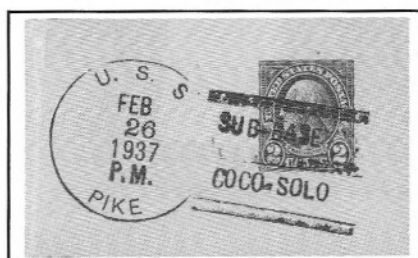
Fig.1. Ocean to Ocean Submarine mail, 5th Victory Loan Cover.



Fig. 2. Named Subs in Canal Waters: USS *Cachalot* (SS-170).



USS *Porpoise* (SS-172).



USS *Pike* (SS-173).

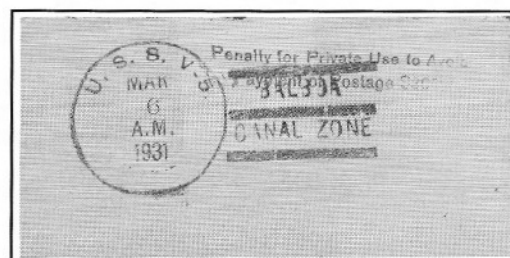


Fig. 3. Numbered Sub in Canal Waters: USS V-5, USS *Narwhal* (SS-167).

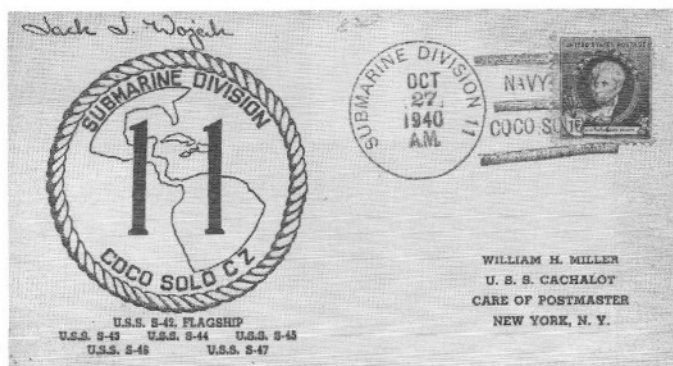


Fig. 4. Submarine Division 11.

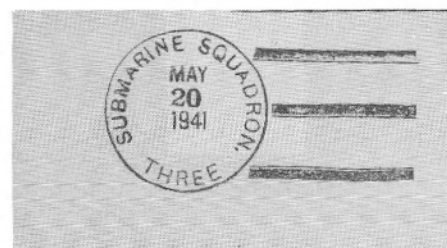


Fig. 5. Submarine Squadron Three.

(Continued on next page)

and a Mother Ship, USS *Holland* (Fig. 6), all in local waters.

4. The post office of the Atlantic submarine base at Coco Solo, Canal Zone, was an integral office of the Canal Zone Postal Service, and as such used only Canal Zone stamps. This CZ office operated from March 1, 1919 until the demise of the CZPS in 1979, except for the WW II years, when it was part of the U.S. Navy. Coco Solo also became a Fleet Air Base and was the origin for many of the early naval flights.

A postal card with the proper CZ airmail rate is shown (Fig. 7). The philatelic one-cent U.S. franked card (Fig. 8) received the proper postage due "T" marking since foreign (U.S.) stamps were invalid in Canal Zone post offices. The addressee and preparer of this cover, Everett Erle was a prominent naval writer, collector, and exhibitor during the middle half

of the last Century. Many of his contrived air and naval covers grace today's collections.

5. This outstanding example of a CZ sub cover (Fig. 9) has two additional assets. It is a first day cover of the 2 cent Goethals stamp, and is franked to pay the United States internal air mail rate, the "Continental rate". In 1928 mail was by surface ship to the U.S. with the additional franking paying for air service within the Continental U.S. These covers are not common.

6. In 1942, Japan launched a plan to cripple the Panama Canal using the largest submarine ever built. A Class I-400, 3530-ton sub capable of launching three planes with large bombs was deployed in May 1945. The bombs were large enough to disrupt canal operations. The sub avoided all shipping lanes and was in the South Atlantic when Japan surrendered.

The crew jettisoned planes and bombs and returned to Japan.

The sortie was commemorated in a cachet prepared by Herbert Nikkirk as part of a day-by-day series of WW II cachets (Fig. 10).

7. In the period shortly before the entry of the United States into World War I, Germany, deprived of surface shipping in the North Atlantic had been successfully using submarines to evade British attack. After the U.S. entry into the War even subs were untenable. The cover shown (Fig. 11) was intended to be carried by sub. It was mailed in Osnabruck, Germany January 14, 1917, and postmarked at Bremen January 15 with a graphic device in the postal marking at the lower center of the cover. "Zurück" and the text indicates "Returned, service suspended". This one, with letter enclosed, addressed to David, Panama, never made it.



Fig. 6. Mother Ship, USS *Holland*.

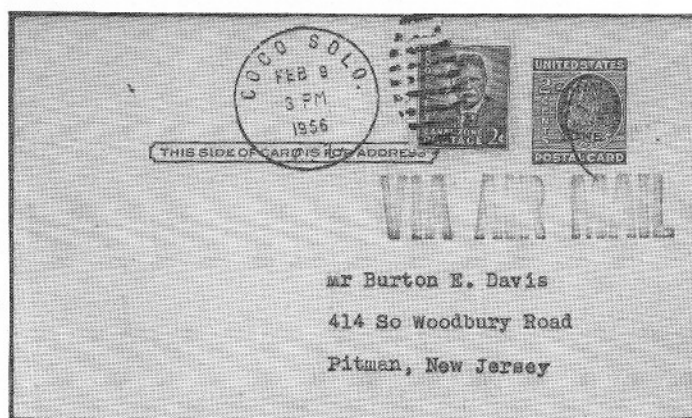


Fig. 7. Coco Solo, CZ, correct franking.

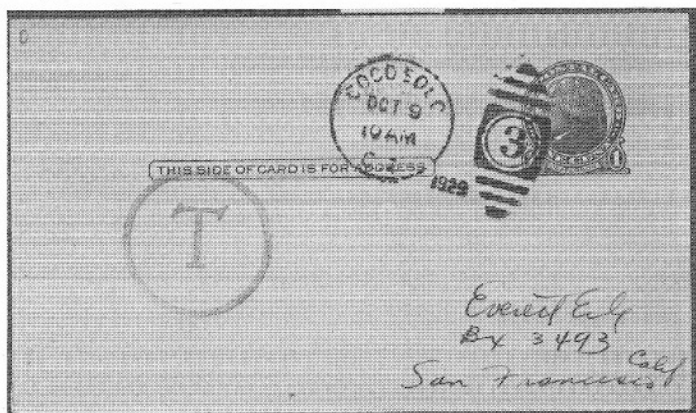


Fig. 8. Coco Solo, CZ, foreign (U.S.) franking.

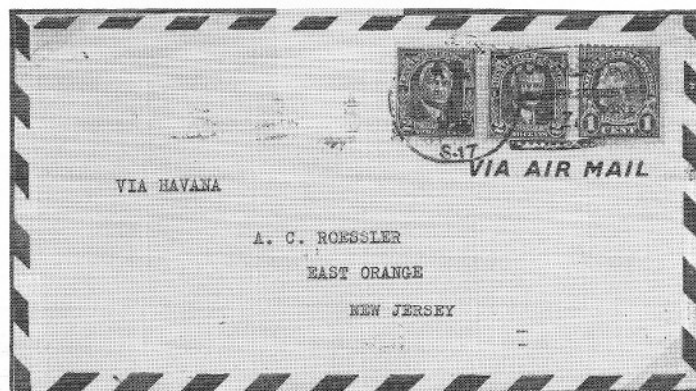


Fig. 9. USS-17, first day 2¢ Goethals.

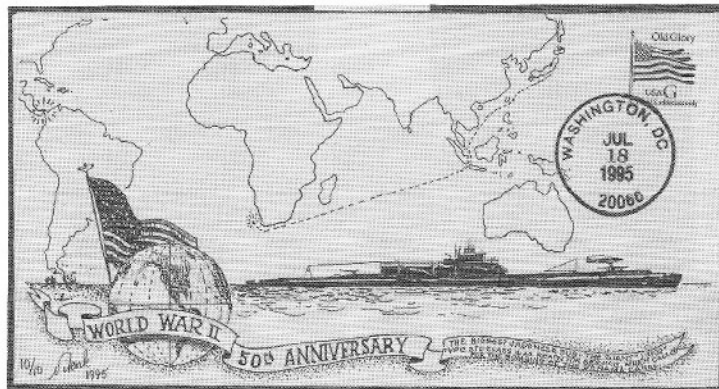


Fig. 10. Japanese Bomb Plan.

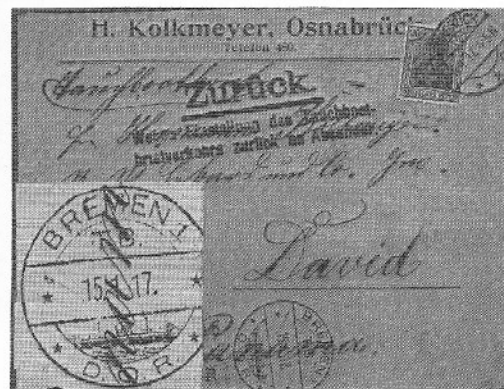


Fig. 11. German Submarine Mail.

(Continued on next page)

8. Deltiology, the study and collection of picture post cards (PPC) is a second cousin to philately however, the images give life to what we would otherwise have to imagine. One of the favorite pictures was a shot of a cluster of five WW I subs abreast in a lock chamber (Fig. 12). Records show this class of sub had a beam of 13'11" which allowed the subs to be side-by-side in the 110" lock chamber. Our modern subs could not do this but the older vintages were small enough to economically squeeze several into the 110-foot wide lock chamber. And, these PPC, on their reverse, usually have CZ stamps and postal markings.

9. The single example of commercial mail carried by Submarine in the Canal Zone area followed the 1937 crash of the Panagra S-43. Sikorsky Santa Maria 20 miles west of Cristobal. Overdue with a low ceiling, the U.S. Navy sent out search aircraft which found the crash site. The Submarines S-43, S-44, S-45, and Destroyers Babbitt, and Taylor recovered 46 pounds of commercial mail. The mail was dried out at the Cristobal Oil Handling Plant and when possible forwarded to the addressee. Many covers had the stamps washed off due to immersion in salt water.

The plane was on the last lap of its FAM-9 route from Buenos Aires, the last stop being Guayaquil, Ecuador. The covers are well described in articles in this journal: CZP 32:30; 51:9,13; 53:25; 54:3; 71:13; 73:25. They are assigned a CZSG No. 123 (CZP 32:20). Covers occasionally show at auction and are frequently parts of Canal Zone, disaster mail, air-mail, crash cover, and other collections. (Fig. 13, Fig. 14)
Should any of our CZSG readers have any other examples of Panama Canal submarine philately please contact the author or Editor.



Fig. 12. PPC, Subs in Locks.

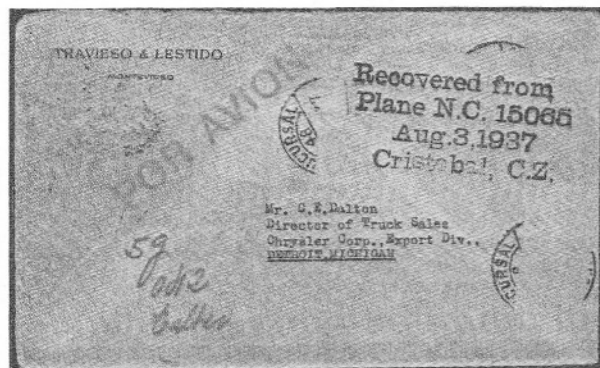


Fig. 13. 1937 Crash Cover recovered by Submarine. 4 line cachet.

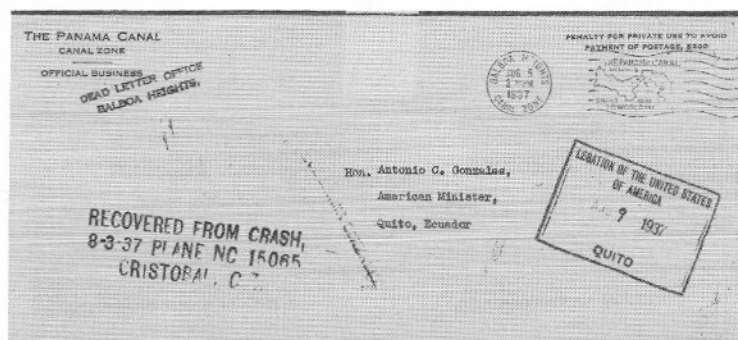


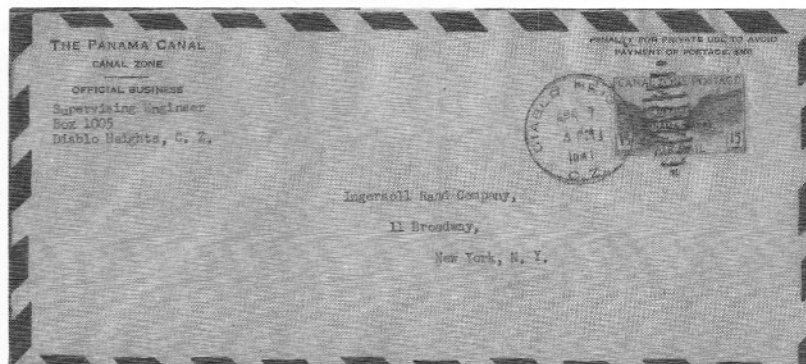
Fig. 14. 1937 "Ambulance" cover returning damaged letter to sender. 3 line cachet.

CZP 137 mentions an article Gary Weiss recently published in the July 15, 2000 issue of *First Days*. The statement "No pre-April 8, 1941 usages of the other values (air mail ordinary) of the CZ Official stamps have been reported" is misleading. The Balboa Heights March 31, 1941 CO3 first day cover is a postage due usage.

The cover shown, from my exhibit, which has a Diablo Heights April 7, 1941 postmark on CZ CO3, may be the earliest known commercial usage for prepayment of air mail fees. According to CZPS records, the overprinted official air mails were not to have been sold or used prior to April 8, 1941, but, obviously, these stamps were distributed to the various departments prior to that date.

Paul Ammons

Update on earliest known use of CZ official stamps



Late use of the 80 cent denomination by Tom Brougham

From July 1951 to the closing of the Canal Zone postal service, an eighty-cent denomination was continuously included in airmail stamps available at CZ post offices. However, before mid-1969, there were no single eighty-cent rates or fees that one will typically encounter on first class covers. Those very few eighty-cent stamps seen on covers before mid-1969 usually pay a combination of registry fee and airmail, usually to foreign destinations or on large envelopes to domestic destinations.

On July 14, 1969 the basic registration fee became 80 cents for indemnity up to \$100. (Fig. 1).

On May 29, 1978, two special fees became 80 cents each. Figure 2 shows the last certified fee that was in effect in the Canal Zone. Figure 3 shows the last restricted delivery fee. This cover also shows the 45-cent return receipt requested fee; registration was free on this official mail.

The last CZ airmail rate to destinations outside the Western Hemisphere was 35 cents per half ounce. Figure 4 shows a triple rate to Sweden. The earliest example I have of this rate is June 19, 1974. Possibly, this rate went into effect for foreign Canal Zone airmail about the same time that foreign airmail rates for the US changed on March 2, 1974. Please drop me a line if you can report an example of this last 35-cent foreign airmail rate earlier than June of 1974.

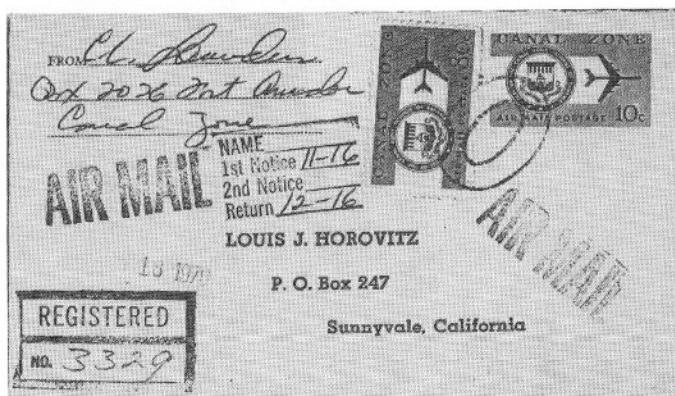


Fig. 1. Registered Airmail cover, backstamped "Balboa 2, Nov. 13, 1970. 10¢ Airmail rate, 80¢ Reg. fee.

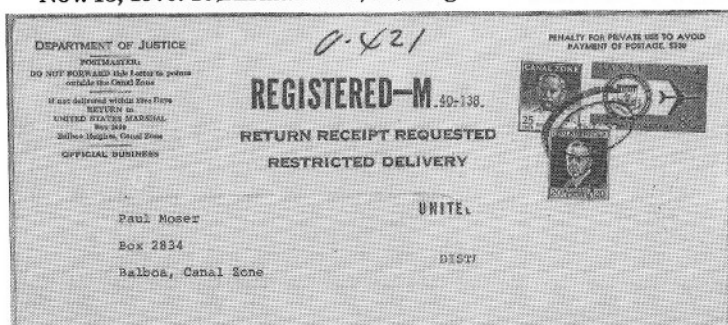


Fig. 3. Return Receipt-Registered, Penalty cover, backstamped "Balboa, Aug. 16, 1978. 45¢ Return-Receipt fee, 80¢ Reg. fee.

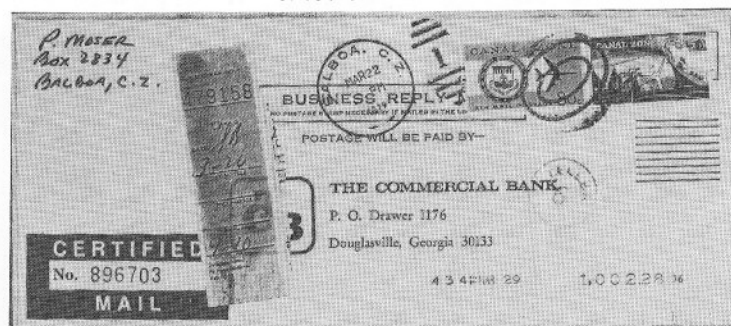


Fig. 2. Certified cover, March 22, 1979. 10¢ Surface rate, 80¢ Certified fee.

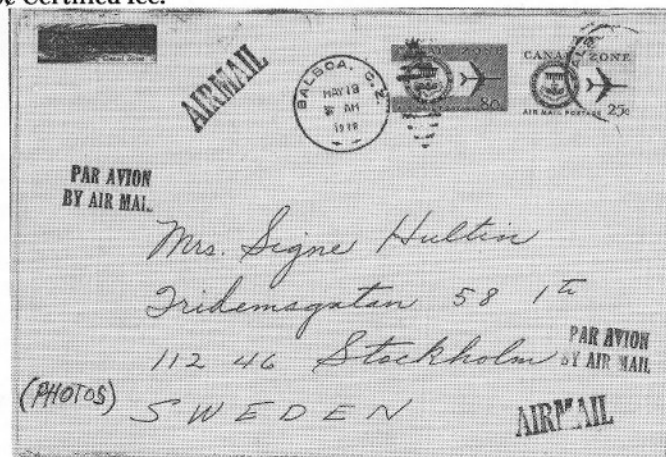


Fig. 4. Airmail cover to Sweden, May 19, 1978. 35¢ per 1/2 ounce rate.

President's Report

(Continued from page 33)

What the eager non-computer-using collector really needs to get started is one of the \$999 "Internet Appliances" and a 17" monitor. This combination does not yet exist, Compaq does have a model with a 10" monitor but it cannot handle the Java programming language. One would not bet anyway on getting a great image on a 10" monitor.

In your electronic travels please remember that you are looking at a source of new information. Did you pick up an unreported plate number or perforation shift or new spacing? If so, kindly send notice of same to me. New postal markings should be sent to Lawson Entwistle. A printout would certainly be appreciated.

Do inspect the CZSG web site at <http://home.att.net/~a.bentz/czsg.htm>. If you tap out www.czsg.com on a computer you will find your-

self visiting a commercial site in St. Gallen, Switzerland. I'd tell you what it is all about but the language used is German.

In the final stages of review are two publications which should be mailed to members later this year. They are the US Navy Postmarks handbook and the updated UPSS work on Possessions postal stationery. Other irons are in the fire all at no cost to you other than the \$8 annual dues.

Happy New Year!

Recruit a
new member!

Report on CZSG Mail Sale No. 29

Jerry Craig,
Mail Sale Manager

Mail Sale No. 29 is now completed. Twenty-eight consignors provided 867 lots of which 789 were sold to 148 (out of 173) bidders after nearly 3,000 bids were submitted. The 789 lots sold for \$34,752 and had an estimate Catalog value of \$57,705.

The cost of running the mail sale was \$2,538.03 with much of that amount being used for printing (\$927.29) and mailing (\$1,203.27) expenses. Insurance (\$205) and supplies & miscellaneous (\$202.47) account for the rest of the cost. Net proceeds to the Study Group totaled \$955.67, including \$18.50 miscellaneous income. A special thanks to Dick Salz, Bob Karrer and Dick Bates and for their assistance, consul and encouragement.

Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Second Series

Scott Numbers 4-8

Part II

Part I of this article on fake overprints on Canal Zone stamps (CZP 136:27-9) identified different characteristics that can be used to differentiate genuine overprints from those that are fakes. Part II given here uses those characteristics to examine several additional examples of fakes. The format used includes an illustration of each item followed by a description of the key features used to distinguish the fake overprint. Each item is analyzed to determine whether the stamp is a fake, and the reasons for the conclusion are given.

The key attributes, of the overprint and stamp, examined and commented on here include the following, with the values on genuine copies given in parentheses:

- 1) the U.S. stamp overprinted;
- 2) the height of the letters in the CANAL ZONE overprint;
- 3) the length of the CANAL ZONE overprint;
- 4) the length of the PANAMA overprint;
- 5) the spacing between CANAL ZONE and PANAMA;
- 6) the spacing between the L in CANAL and the Z in ZONE;
- 7) general characteristics of the overprint.

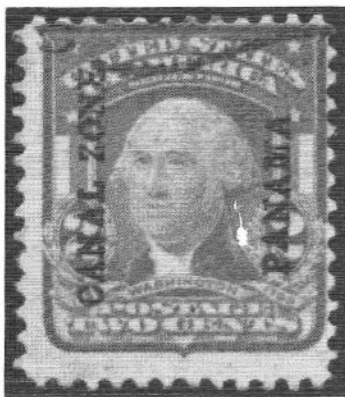


Fig. 1. 2 cent carmine-on U.S. no. 319-used.

Characteristics of item in Fig. 1.

height of CZ overprint: 1.7 mm
length of CZ overprint: 15.8 mm
length of PANAMA overprint: 10.8 mm
CANAL ZONE/PANAMA spacing: 10.3 - 10.5 mm
spacing between L and Z of CANAL ZONE overprint: 1.1 mm
other: overprint is dull black, i.e., non-glossy; does not show impression on reverse.

Analysis: The letters in the overprint are too small; they should measure 1.8 mm in height. Though this may not seem like much of a difference, laying this stamp side-by-side with one with a genuine overprint readily reveals the

inconsistency to the naked eye. Outline of letters is not sharp - what appear to be broken letters are in actuality under-inkings not commonly seen on the 2 cent. Vertical serifs on inside of Z have no curvature. Spacing between CANAL ZONE and PANAMA is too narrow, and varies, increasing from the CANAL end to the ZONE end. Though there is little of the cancel to be definitive, cancels with wavy lines were not in use in the CANAL ZONE during this era. The P and first A in PANAMA are out of alignment.

Conclusion: This overprint is no good.

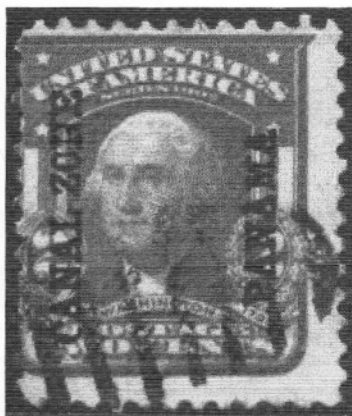


Fig. 2. 2 cent carmine-on U.S. no. 319-used.

Characteristics of item in Fig. 2.

height of C Z overprint: 1.9 mm
length of CZ overprint: 16.3 mm
length of PANAMA overprint: 11.5 mm
CANAL ZONE/PANAMA spacing: 10.4 mm
spacing between L and Z of CANAL ZONE overprint: 0.9 mm other: Overprint is non-glossy and does not show an impression on reverse.

Analysis: Though the general appearance of the overprint to the naked eye does not readily indicate the fake, the lengths of both the CANAL ZONE and PANAMA overprints are a bit longer than appropriate, the cancel does not match known cancels in use at the time, the edges of the letters are a bit "blobby" particularly where the vertical and horizontal parts join. The broken letters apparent - C at the bottom, O at right and N in ZONE on the diagonal do not plate are known broken letters, and do not show the characteristic sharp edges of known broken letters.

Conclusion: This overprint is no good.

Characteristics of item in Fig. 3.

height of CZ overprint: 1.8 mm
length of CZ overprint: 16.1 mm
length of PANAMA overprint: 11.3 mm
CANAL ZONE/PANAMA spacing: 10.5 mm
spacing between L and Z of CANAL ZONE overprint: 1.0 mm
other: Overprint is glossy black and shows a distinct impression on reverse.

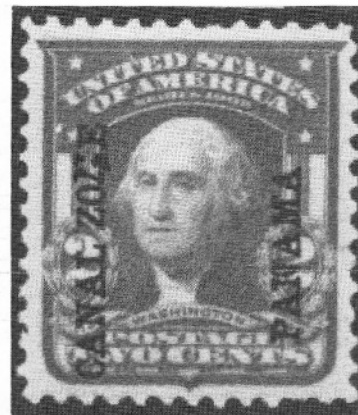


Fig. 3. 2 cent carmine-on U.S. no. 319- unused.

Analysis: Overprint is sharp and distinct, but shows a "munched" N in ZONE and skips on or breaks in diagonal stroke of N in PANAMA. Measurements are all within tolerance.

Conclusion: This stamp is good and the "munched" N plates correctly as position 77.

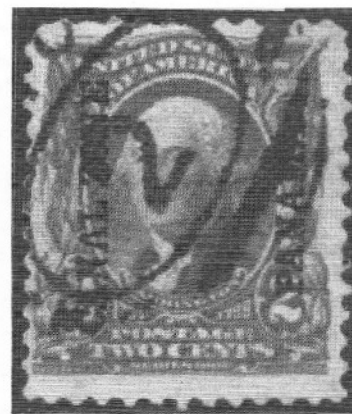


Fig. 4. 2 cent carmine-on U.S. no. 301-used.

Characteristics of item in Fig. 4.

height of CZ overprint: 1.7 mm
length of CZ overprint: 16.3 mm
length of PANAMA overprint: 11.1 mm
CANAL ZONE/PANAMA spacing: 10.6 mm
spacing between L and Z of CANAL ZONE overprint: 0.7 mm

Analysis: This stamp is easily identified as no good because the overprint has been applied to the wrong stamp. But the quality of the overprint is pretty good, so this writer thought it would be useful to look for secondary characteristics that would identify this as a fake. The cancellation is of a type that was never used in the Canal Zone. Some specifics on the overprints are not right. For example, the spacing between the L and Z is too small. The L in CANAL ZONE is the wrong shape, looking slightly too long at the bottom. Additionally, the bottom right of the second A in CANAL should very nearly touch the bottom left of the L on the genuine overprint; there is consider

(Continued on next page)

able spacing here. And the Z looks "lazy", almost leaning over backwards to nearly leaning on the O. On the genuine overprint, the spacing between the Z and O is nearly the same on the two points of closest contact - slightly closer at the bottom..

Conclusion: This overprint is no good as it is applied to the incorrect U.S. stamp.



Fig. 5. 2 cent carmine-on U.S. no. 301-used.

Characteristics of item in Figure 5.

height of CANAL ZONE overprint: 2.0mm
length of CANAL ZONE overprint: 19.5 mm
PANAMA: 13.7 mm
CANAL ZONE/PANAMA spacing: 10.7mm
spacing between L and Z of CANAL ZONE overprint: 1.1 mm

Analysis: Not much about this is any good - incorrect stamp is overprinted, letters in overprint too big and not correct typeface. Cancel not of type used in the Canal Zone.

Conclusion: This is not much more than a poorly executed curiosity. No good.

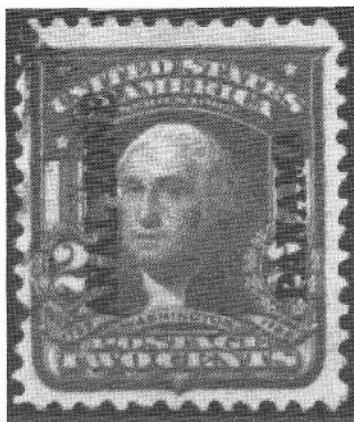


Fig. 6. 2 cent red shade - on U.S. no. 319 - used

Characteristics of item in Fig. 6.

height of CZ overprint: 2.0 mm
length of CZ overprint: NA - missing C
length of PANAMA overprint: 11.4 mm
CANAL ZONE/PANAMA spacing: 10.0 mm
spacing between L and Z of CANAL ZONE overprint: 0.7 mm
other: missing C of CANAL

Analysis: The narrow spacing between CANAL ZONE and PANAMA indicates this is a fake. All known variations in this spacing, primarily on Canal Zone No. 7 are greater than 10.5 mm, not less. The other measurements do not agree with genuine copies. A missing C in CANAL is not known on this series. But most evident, though not in a black and white photo, is that the copy of U.S. No. 319 was used to create this fake is in a shade not overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. It is not the lake shade, but is much too dark a red compared to the two shades that were overprinted: carmine and scarlet.

Conclusion: The fake was created by overprinting the incorrect shade on U.S. No. 319.

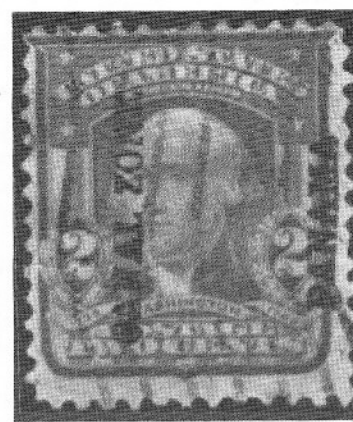


Fig. 7. 2 cent carmine - on U.S. no. 319 - used

Characteristics of item in Fig. 7.

height of CZ overprint: 1.8 mm
length of CZ overprint: 16.0 mm
length of PANAMA overprint: 11.3 mm
CANAL ZONE/PANAMA spacing: 10.5 mm
spacing between L and Z of CANAL ZONE overprint: 1.1 mm

other: blotchy, irregularly shaped letters; overprint at a slight angle

Analysis: Cancel with wavy lines was not used in the Canal Zone at that time. Poor quality of overprint is evident in comparison with genuine copies; overprints at an angle on this series are almost always no good.

Conclusion: Item has a fake overprint.

Part III of this article will examine closely examples for which the shape of individual letters provides the primary clues to determine whether the overprint is genuine, and will include several stamps that have genuine overprints but may not look good on first impression.

Scott 2001 Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers by Jim Crumpacker

The price movements of Canal Zone items in the new catalogue were moderate in number and most of those owed the change to the simple fact that the minimum value of any stamp in the entire catalogue went from 15¢ to 20¢. One great surprise: we have a new catalogue number, "OX7". The editorial powers-that-be detached the rouletted 5 central entry for OX6 and now call it OX7. The main perforation entry for OX6 thus becomes Perf. 12 1/2 instead of Rouletted 5 and OX6a disappears. No price change goes with this effort but we do have another space to fill in an album.

There were no declines in value in any stamp or cover whatsoever so the worth of our collections is safe for another year.

An expanded handful of increases in plate block prices, generally in the 50¢ range, were noted in the #141-#157 group.

All of the U18-23 listings edged up in value as postally used entires. Dogfights for this staple have been evident in the CZSG Mail Sales for several years.

The 'big buck' changes were all auction driven. Some of these moves are shown below with a few entries upon which comments were made above.

Scott#	2000	2001
3c, used	\$12,500	\$15,000
9c	not listed	5,000
9d 1,250	2,000	
9d, used	1,000	1,500
12e, used	1,000	1,250
15 var., spaced	4,000	5,000
AL in CANAL		
26b	3,500	4,000
36b	250	275
39f 6,500	8,000	
55f 1,250	1,400	
56a	575	600
148 pl. bl. 6	3.75	4.25
U19 postally used entire	3.00	3.25
U23 postally used entire	1.25	1.40

Winners:

At APS STAMPSHOW 2000, Providence RI, August 24-27, 2000:

Raymond W. Ireson, *The Panama Canal Story*, Prix d'Honneur.

Mary Ann Aspinwall Owens, *The Aspinwall Connection*, Display Class, Gold.

Richard Spielberg, *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, Literature Competition, Silver.

James A. Cross, *COPACARTA*, Literature Competition, Silver Bronze.

At SESCOAL 2000, Los Angeles CA, October 6-7, 2000:

Irwin J. Gibbs, *Canal Zone Postal Stationery - 1907-1924*, Gold and UPSS Marcus White Medal.

Richard Spielberg, *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, Literature Competition, Silver.

At Postage Stamp Mega-Event- ASDA, (an invitational show) New York City, NY, November 9-12, 2000:

Gary B. Weiss, *Canal Zone Postage Dues*, Dealers Choice Award (Grand Prize) - 5 ounce gold medal.

Irwin J. Gibbs, *Canal Zone Postal Stationery 1907-1924*, 2 ounce Prix d'Honneur medal.

CZ Postal Stationery Knives by Irwin Gibbs & David J. Leeds

Envelope Knives is the term used to classify the shape or design of the cut of the flat paper stock to be formed or, folded into an envelope. The specific cut is further listed as Knife and Size to which a dimension may be added.

The same contractors producing United States postal stationery printed much of the postal stationery designed for use in the Canal Zone. The envelope Knives used were identical with those used for United States envelopes.

The principal work on United States envelope knives was a catalog edited by Prescott Holden Thorp

published (in various editions) by United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS). The 1985 edition of UPSS *Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone* catalog (PSCZ)¹ used the same Thorp numbers for envelopes produced by the regular United States contractors, as were assigned in the UPSS United States Envelope Catalog.² Knives used only for envelopes printed by local presses in the Canal Zone were assigned knife numbers with the prefix "P". The U.S. Post Office also has designated sizes, which are not considered here.

The United Postal Stationery Society, in February 1999, published a new edition on envelope knives,

edited by Allen Mintz,³ which changed the Knife numbers and size designations. This article correlates the listings from the various sources.

There were three manufacturers involved in the production of Canal Zone postal stationery envelopes: The American Bank Note Company, (ABNCo) The United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing, (BEP), and its contractors. The Panama Canal Press at Mount Hope, Canal Zone, (PCP)

A recap of all knives used on Canal Zone postal stationery follows:

American Bank Note Company

Imprint PSCZ No.	Imprint Scott No.	Knife PSCZ No.	Knife Thorp No.	Envelope Size	Envelope Dimension (mm)
1-5	U1 - U5	P-1	—	6	93x165
[Note: Only one knife was used by ABNCo for all regular postage envelopes.]					
R1 - R2	UF1	P-7	—	6	95x165
R3 - R4	UF1a	P-8	—	8	100x240

United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Imprint PSCZ No.	Imprint Scott No.	Knife Thorp / PSCZ No. No.	Knife UPSS	Envelope Size UPSS PSCZ	Envelope Dimension (mm)
6-7	U6-U7	81	57	10 5	89x160
15-17	U10	81	57	10 5	89x160
18-21	U10	59	106	23 8	105x241
22,23	U10	83	78	13 13	95x171
24,32,37	U11,U13,U15	105	91	19 71/2	98x190
25,28,33	U11,U11,U13	59	106	23 8	105x241
26,29	U11	83	78	13 13	95x171
27,35,39	U11,U13,U15	81	57	10 5	89x160
34,38	U13,U15	83	78	13 13	95x171
40,41,49	U16	59	106	23 8	105x241 High back
42, 50	U16	59A	106	23 8	105x241 Low back
43-48, 51-52	U16	83	78	13 13	95x171
53	U17	59A	57	10 5	105x241
64-66	U17	107	66	12 6	92x165
57-58, 61-63	U17	111	114	23 10	110x241
59-60	U17	110	68	12 6	92x165
61-63, 78, 80	U18	111	114	23 10	110x241
64-67, 79	U18	110	68	12 6	92x165
68-73, 81-82	U19	107	66	12 6	92x165
74-77	U19	110	68	12 6	92x165
78	U20	111	114	23 10	110x241
79	U20	110	68	12 6	92x165
80	U21	111	114	23 10	110x241
81-82	U21	110	68	12 6	92x165
83	U22	111	114	23 10	110x241
84-87	U22	112	69	12 6	92x165
88	U23	113	115	23 10	110x241
89-96	U23	112	69	12 6	92x165
Airmail					
A7- A11	UC3	83	78	13 13	95x171
A12-A15	UC4	107	66	12 6	92x165
A16-A17	UC5	59A	57	10 5	105x241
A18-A19	UC6	107	66	12 6	92x165
A20	UC7	111	114	23 10	110x241
A21-A22	UC8	110	68	12 6	92x165
A23-A26A	UC9	110	68	12 6	92x165

(Continued on next page)

Imprint PSCZ No.	Imprint Scott No.	Knife Thorp / PSCZ No. No.	Knife UPSS	Envelope Size UPSS PSCZ	Envelope Dimension (mm)
A27-A30	UC10	111	114	23 10	110x241
A31-A34	UC11	110	68	12 6	92x165
A35-A38	UC13	110	68	12 6	92x165
A39-A40	UC12	111	114	23 10	110x241
A41-A42	UC14	111	114	23 10	110x241
A43-A44	UC14	110	68	12 6	92x165
A45-A46	UC15a	111	114	23 10	110x241
A47-A50	UC15	110	68	12 6	92x165
A51	UC16	111	114	23 10	110x241
A52-A55	UC16	110	68	12 6	92x165
A56-A57	UC15	112	69	12 6	92x165

The Panama Canal Press

Imprint PSCZ No.	Imprint Scott No.	Knife PSCZ No.	Knife Thorp No.	Envelope Size PSCZ	Envelope Dimension (mm)
8, 10	U8, U9	P-2	—	6	93x165 Rounded center,
9, 11, 36	U8, U9, U14	P-3	—	6	93x165 Depressed center
12	U9	P-4	—	6	93x165 Flat center
13, 30	U9, U12	P-5	—	8	105x242 High back, 14mm from top
14, 31	U9, U12	P-6	—	8	105x242 Low back, 19mm from top
A1, A4-A5	UC1, UC2, UC2a	P-2	—	6	93x165 Rounded center
A3, A6	UC1, UC2a	P-5	—	8	105x242 Low back, 19mm from top

References:

- 1) Blessington, John J. and Rick Schwartz, Editors, 1985, *The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone*, United Postal Stationery Society. (PSCZ)
- 2) Haller, Austin P., Editor, 1990, *UPSS Catalog of the 20th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States*, United Postal Stationery Society. (UPSS 90)
- 3) Mintz, Allen, Editor, 1999, *Cutting Knives of the 19th & 20th Century Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States of America*, United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS 99)

Earliest reported Uses of United States special delivery stamps from the Canal Zone

By Robert L. Markovits,
CZSG #374

Fortunately for the philatelic world, and my United States and possessions special delivery collection in specific, Gerald D. Bliss, postmaster of the Canal Zone who resided in Pedro Miguel on March 4, 1907, had a relative in Utica, New York. R.E. Bliss (P.C.). He was residing at that time at the R.R. Branch of the Y.M.C.A. in that City. Mr. Bliss sent two special delivery letters to him, one just special delivery which arrived in New York on March 10 and was forwarded to Utica, N.Y.

The second one on March 19, 1907 which was also registered as well as sent special delivery. The special delivery stamps, both Scott E6, the issue of 1902, were both canceled in New York City upon arrival at the port, most likely.

Mr. Bliss utilized two different corner cards for these letters and he paid the postage with appropriate stamps then in use since the mail was personal and so not entitled to official free franking.

The gold medal collection of Gary Weiss M.D., is believed to contain 1931 usages of United States special delivery stamp Scott E15, the issue of 1927, which had heretofore been recorded as the earliest use of a U.S. special delivery stamp from the Zone.

Ed. Note:

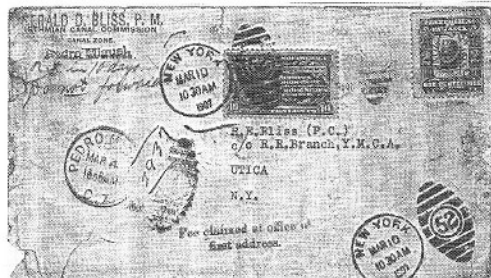
The Canal Zone did not have Special Delivery service. Patrons desiring Special Delivery service in the United States could obtain such service, by affixing 10 cents in U.S. postage stamps (or U.S. Special Delivery stamps), in addition to Canal Zone postage, and marking same "Special Delivery".

The Canal Zone postmasters were instructed that the U.S. stamps were to be canceled with the dauber stamps of the office of mailing. This was usually accomplished by using the edge of regular cancellation device.

R.E. Bliss was Richard Elton Bliss, father of Gerald D. Bliss.



The second letter paid the eight cent registration fee and bore a Cristobal, C.Z. registration label, or rather a cancel in the form of the then current Registration Labels.



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